

Open Meeting

To	Waikato District Council
From	Clive Morgan General Manager Community Growth
Date	12 November 2019
Prepared by	Mark Davey Strategic Planner
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1301/PRI398
Report Title	Draft Waikato 2070 (Waikato District Council Growth and Economic Development Strategy)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to consult on the Waikato District Council Growth & Economic Development Strategy (Waikato 2070) in accordance with section 83 (Special Consultative Procedure) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

The purpose of Waikato 2070 is to guide the growth in the district over the next 50 years.

Waikato 2070 aims to combine both the District Growth Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy and if adopted following a period of consultation, will replace these two strategies.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the General Manager Community Growth, Draft Growth and Economic Development Strategy be received;

AND THAT under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council adopts the Statement of Proposal (attachement 1) and approves public consultation on the Waikato District Council Draft Growth and Economic Development Strategy to occur by way of special consultative procedure between 13 November 2019 and 10 January 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

Council currently has a District Development Strategy (2015) and a District Economic Development Strategy (2015). A review of both documents has been undertaken and in

doing so, Council made the decision to combine the two strategies into a new Growth and Economic Development Strategy called Waikato 2070.

The purpose of combining the two strategies is to align land-use, employment, transport and investment decisions, across our organisation, including key stakeholders, to better respond to growth-related pressures and deliver improved community outcomes.

Waikato 2070 will help to identify suitable and cost-effective land-use areas for future growth serviced by infrastructure. It will prioritise job creation in sectors aligned to the district's strengths and will outline a growth pattern that will help preserve the natural environment and resources.

Additionally Waikato 2070 will help inform our communities about the likely settlement pattern within our district for the next 50 years and will outline the steps Council will take to manage growth. It is important to note that the settlement pattern developed will be informed by a cost benefit analysis. Waikato 2070 will also inform agencies and infrastructure providers the future location and scale of growth to assist with their planning.

It is important that Waikato 2070 recognises, protects, and enhances the features that make the Waikato district a special place whilst accommodating future residential and business growth. It is critical that we integrate land-use development with infrastructure provision to achieve more cost effective development.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

Waikato 2070 will replace the Waikato District Development Strategy (2015) and the Economic Development Strategy (2015).

Waikato 2070 has a key role to play for Council by:

- Setting a clear vision for the district given the new growth environment;
- Supporting and informing the Proposed Waikato District Plan;
- Helping inform the Long Term Plan;
- Helping inform the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy;
- Adopting of regional and sub-regional strategies and priorities into the districts strategy; and
- Assisting in adopting Blueprint priorities into Council's long term vision.

4.2 OPTIONS

Option 1:

No consultation is undertaken.

Given the significance of Waikato 2070 in terms of it being a strategic document which is intended to inform and provide guidance as to the vision of the District, this option is not recommended. It is accepted however, that this option would reduce time and costs as a hearing would not be required.

Option 2:

Undertake consultation in accordance with section 82 of the LGA.

Similar to the explanation under Option 1, this option is also not recommended as it does not guarantee the community the opportunity to present their views to Council through a hearing.

Option 3:

Undertake consultation in accordance with section 83 of the LGA.

This is the recommended option.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 FINANCIAL

The development of Waikato 2070 is an un-funded project. To date costs have been met by existing operational budgets. Where possible technical reports to support the strategy will be shared across this project and the Proposed District Plan project to reduce costs.

The cost to undertake consultation on Waikato 2070 will be funded through existing budgets.

5.2 LEGAL

Although Council is not required by legislation to produce a strategy to manage either growth or economic development, Waikato 2070 and its contents may be a matter for consideration when determining resource consents under section 104 Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**).

There are no requirements to undertake public consultation on Waikato 2070, however, it is recommended that consultation be undertaken under section 83 of the LGA for the following reasons:

- This is a strategic document which sets out Council's vision for growth and economic development;
- Council must ensure that it complies with its obligations under Part 6 of the LGA in terms of considering the views of the community;
- It is considered that the document triggers Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Consultation under section 83 of the LGA requires Council to adopt a Statement of Proposal and states that the consultation period must be no less than one month. In addition

to this, Council must provide an opportunity for submitters to present their submission in a manner than enables spoken or sign language (typically a hearing).

5.3 STRATEGY, PLANS, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

The District Growth Strategy and Economic Development Strategy are two of Council’s district guiding strategies, which, if adopted following public consultation, Waikato 2070 will replace.

Waikato 2070 will guide all planning by providing guidance for land use and infrastructure related planning within the district for the next 30 years. It will inform the Long Term Plan 2021-31, activity and asset management plans, the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, the Hamilton 2 Auckland Spatial Plan and projects, and Future Proof updates.

The outcome being sought through this report aligns with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The preparation of Waikato 2070 triggers the following thresholds contained in the council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. The Council will take into account the following matters when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions, and the appropriate level of engagement:

- Whether the proposal or decision will affect a large portion of the community
- The likely impact on present and future interests of the community, recognising Maaori culture values and their relationship to land and water

Waikato 2070 will be important in informing the Proposed District Plan hearings, Long Term Plan 2021-31 and the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy. The intention will be to review Waikato 2070 every three years once adopted, to inform each proceeding long term plans, future plan changes/variations to keep up with development.

Highest levels of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by providing a brief explanation of the tools which will be used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).	Public Notice Public Open Days Letters/Emails to key stakeholders Meetings with some key stakeholders Hearing Online and hard copy submissions				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
	Yes		Internal

Yes			Community Boards/Community Committees
	Yes		Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi
Yes			Households
Yes			Business
	Yes		Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future Proof Partners (Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council, New Zealand Transport Agency, Taangata Whenua) - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

6. CONCLUSION

Waikato 2070 has been developed to bring together the out of date District Development Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy.

Waikato 2070 will provide guidance for land use and infrastructure related planning within the district for the next 30 years as well as inform the Long Term Plan 2021-31, activity and asset management plans, the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, the Hamilton 2 Auckland Spatial Plans and projects, and Future Proof updates.

Consultation on Waikato 2070 will take place between 13 November 2019 and 10 January 2020. If required a hearing will be held in late February or as soon thereafter as possible.

The Waikato 2070 document is expected to be adopted by council in March or April 2020.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Statement of Proposal including Waikato 2070 (Waikato District Council Draft Growth & Economic Development Strategy)